

ENEMY OFF PORTSMOUTH, N. H.?

THEY THINK THEY'VE SIGHTED HIM AT ISLES OF SHOALS.

In the Afternoon a Strange Ship Ran Away From a Scout and at Nightfall a Squadron Lay to the Southeast—Other News of the War Game Off New England.

ISLES OF SHOALS, N. H., Aug. 21.—In the beginning of the Spanish-American War the Government established a lookout and maintained a crew of Signal Service men on these rocky islands ten miles off the New Hampshire coast. That this judgment at that time was good was demonstrated this afternoon when, during a heavy mist, the jockey who was on the lookout at the top of the most isolated of Commander Pillsbury's attacking squadrons.

During the mid-afternoon a heavy mist spread, and shortly after 4 o'clock it cleared up slightly. The man on watch saw a strange two-masted craft several miles to the south and evidently trying to make toward the shore. As soon as she was sighted word was signalled to two of the torpedo boats and they started to find out her identity. On their approach the craft turned seaward and was soon lost from their pursuers.

Again shortly after dark to-night, the man on watch discovered a number of new vessels several miles to the southeast of the shore. They were not discernible by the naked eye and were only seen from the light with the aid of a powerful glass. They remained practically in the same position until darkness shut them from view. From this fact they are believed to be Commander Pillsbury's squadrons.

Shortly after nightfall the fleet of torpedo boats of Admiral Higginson's squadron stationed at this point departed to keep an eye on the movements of what is believed to be the attacking fleet.

In view of these two discoveries, a strict watch is being kept to prevent a dash of Commander Pillsbury's fleet into Portsmouth harbor. It is argued that, as Portsmouth is a naval station and a coaling port, it will be the objective of the attacking squadron.

While there is no fog to-night at sea it is overcast and is a favorable night for the enemy to slip through the cordon.

One of the despatch boats of Admiral Higginson's fleet, believed to be the Gloucester, came very near sending the passenger steamer Merrimack, which was en route to the Isles of Shoals and Portsmouth, to the bottom to-day. The Merrimack was on her way in from the island when a whitehulled despatch boat came up from the eastward with the speed of the wind. Capt. Stanley whistled for the stranger to go astern of him. The two boats continued on their courses for a few seconds and then the despatch boat whistled that she would cross the passenger boat's bow. Capt. Stanley rang for full speed astern. This checked the headway of the Merrimack and the despatch boat dashed by, just grazing her bow.

The Olympia and other vessels of Admiral Higginson's squadron, which were in this vicinity last night, remained here until 10 o'clock this morning. Some went to the eastward and some toward Cape Ann. Shortly before 11 the Peoria arrived at the islands, but made only a brief stop, going to the eastward.

An information bureau has been established at Portsmouth Point, the extreme tip of Portsmouth Island, at the mouth of Portsmouth harbor.

Rockport, Mass., Aug. 21.—Everybody in Rockport is on the watch for something exciting to happen to-night in the war game that is being played by the two divisions of the North Atlantic squadron. The ships and the torpedo boats that are part of this part are doubly watchful for the skies are overcast and the weather conditions are fairly good for an attempt on the part of the hostile fleet, represented by two auxiliary cruisers and a supply ship, to make a landing and establish a base as good as harbor between Portland and Cape Cod.

The harbor is certain that something is going to turn up. Since Tuesday morning the whole town has been on edge from their shivers, the people careen about every way they manage to get a good deal of pleasure out of thinking it is going to occur.

The battleship Kearsarge, Admiral Higginson's flagship, and the other two battleships of the squadron, the Alabama and the Massachusetts, are lying to-night off the Isles of Shoals, very close to Rockport. They have been here since yesterday afternoon, when the Hige, or home defense squadron, which Higginson commands, put out to sea to locate the White Squadron and to keep it from making a landing. Two torpedo boats for despatch and scouting duty are with them.

The armored cruiser Brooklyn and the other two cruisers of the squadron, the Olympia and the Merrimack, are waiting the approaches to Portsmouth and Portland, and ready to respond to any news that the White Squadron is trying to enter one of the harbors.

The cruiser Monticmore and the smaller vessels, including all the other torpedo boats, are strung out along the coast watching for Pillsbury within the limits of the harbor. The weather is fairly favorable, however, for a descent on the coast.

Rockport doesn't mind the cold and the rain. Most of the population is sitting up to see the game and at its windows, waiting for the thrilling sound of cannonading. Several hundred people, including many women clad in macintoshes and all-wool dresses, are on the beach and the more convenient granite roadway that goes by the name of the "Fish Wharf."

They are waiting for the fishing boat that carries Rockport's mail to Portland and Cape Cod, and what does that matter when everybody is happy? Rockport hasn't had much excitement in years. It is a quiet little town, but it is a town that is fairly feverish, however, for a descent on the coast.

According to calculations by officers of the Blue Squadron, it is not possible that the jockey on the coast before 9 o'clock to-night. This is giving him the benefit of every favorable condition. His instructions were to be at noon on Wednesday at a place less than 40 miles from Portsmouth. It is west longitude, which is about 90 miles out at sea. If he were at the extreme limit of the 90 miles toward the coast, he could not possibly reach Rockport or any other place between Portland and Cape Cod in less than thirty-three hours at 14.5 knots, the highest rate of speed of which the squadron is capable as a unit. But it is likely that he will maintain that speed for thirty-three hours. At 12 knots average speed he could not reach the coast before tomorrow, and, as darkness is considered necessary to cover his approach, it would be necessary for him to hold off until to-morrow night.

Provincetown, Mass., Aug. 21.—The

torpedo boat Stockton sailed from this

port late last evening, leaving Officers Able, Jackson, Wainwright and Cox, who are detailed from the Montgomery, as shore signal men to direct the fleet to cover Race Point and Highland Light. At daylight a torpedo boat, supposed to be the Stockton, was sighted cruising in Cape Cod Bay, well within the race, and she later proceeded over to the Plymouth shore, where she headed south and steamed slowly, skirting the land.

From the Provincetown shore to Plymouth the distance is eighteen miles. The bay shore sweeps around in a circle, so that much of the Cape land, particularly that at Dennis, is invisible from shipping off the point, and scouting ships will necessarily be obliged to cover much water.

Three of Higginson's ships, the Brooklyn, Olympia and Montgomery, appeared at about 11 o'clock, and the Highland Light at 12 o'clock. Cox left town by an early train, carrying nearly all the signalling apparatus, supposed for use on the Highland Light. The other men remained.

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FOR THE WORLD'S MILE RECORD

ARRANGING A SPECIAL RACE ON THE SARATOGA COURSE.

It is Proposed to Run the Race on the Closing Day of the Meeting—W. C. Whitney, John Sanford, J. A. Drake and Frank Farrell to Make Entries.

SARATOGA, Aug. 21.—It is something more than a probability that the last week of the 1902 meeting of the Saratoga association will be made memorable by the running of a special race, arranged for the purpose of breaking the world's race record for one mile. Such a race has been talked of among horse men ever since the meeting opened, and particularly since it has been demonstrated that the Saratoga track, although completed only about two months ago, is one